Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* A large number of people use it for bathing purposes.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* There is no public tank there as it is. That is why I make this request.

R. D. CENTRE—ASSAULT ON STUDENTS UNDER TRAINING

34. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether 3 students undergoing training in the Rural Development Centre were assaulted by certain men belonging to the neighbourhood, on 23rd Kanni, 1115;

(*b*) whether the students submitted any complaint to the Development Officer on the 24th;

(*c*) whether he failed to take any notice of the complaint until after the guardian of one of the students reached the Centre, 2 or 3 days later;

(*d*) whether the matter was reported to the Police; if so, on what date; if not, why;

(*e*) whether the miscreants were detected and punished?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) It was reported to the Rural Development Officer that they were assaulted.

(*b*) No, they submitted to the Rural Development Officer a written complaint on the 27th; one of them informed him about it on the 24th evening.

(*c*) Certainly not, on the 24th and 25th the Rural Development Officer had to give a number of lectures at the Town Hall, Trichur and on the 25th the Rural Development Officer called the man who is reported to have beaten the students and made the necessary enquiry.

(*d*) The matter was not reported to the Police as this alleged assault took place outside the Centre. The students can as well prefer the complaint to the Police themselves.

(*e*) On the 27th the miscreants were called to the Centre and there was a free talk about the matter between them and the students and the relatives of one of the students. All were in favour of a settlement which

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they thought was better than taking up the matter to the Police. The Rural Development Officer took the matter as closed.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: As a result of the enquiry made, was the Rural Development Officer convinced that there was a real assault ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Yes. There was a real assault.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: With reference to answer to question (*d*) do the Government note that there is considerable difference when a complaint is made by the students and a complaint is made by the Rural Development Officer? Some sort of protection for the students there should be given by the Officer in charge there.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: That involves a larger question. So long as the assault is within the precincts of the Rural Development Centre, I can understand the Rural Development Officer taking the responsibility. But beyond the Centre I do not know how he can take up any responsibility. But we will see that if anything like that happens in future, necessary moral support is given.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: But these students will have to get out at times rather than sticking to the school alone.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: എന്തു കാരണത്താലാണ് ഈ തല്ലുണ്ടായതു് ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: പറയത്തക്ക കാരണമൊന്നുമില്ല. ഏതോ ഒരു പെൺകുട്ടിയുടെ പിന്നാലെ നടന്ന എന്നോ മറ്റോ ആണ പറയുന്നതു്. അന്വേഷണത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും അറിയുന്നില്ല.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: What was the nature of the settlement ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Some of them decided to hush up the whole thing seeing that it was not worth the trouble to go to the Police.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal)*: Was the leader of the miscreants an employee of the Rural Development Officer for some time ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I want notice. But I shall ascertain.

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